(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, why it has not been constituted?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The Government have decided that the question must wait for the present.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): With reference to part (*b*), may I know when the Government decided that the question must wait?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I have not got the exact date here. I claim notice.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was it after or before the Budget was passed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I cannot say. I think it must have been after, but I cannot say definitely.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there any special reason why this decision was arrived at?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I am not prepared to discuss the reason here with the member.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know why Government decided that the matter should wait for the present. It was brought to the notice of the Council and in spite of non-official opposition, provision was made in the Budget. But it has been allowed to be there. I remember the Chief Secretary told me at the time the Budget was discussed that orders would issue shortly?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I am not in a position to discuss the reason.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not want a discussion here. Government decided that there should be a board and the Chief Secretary told us that an order would issue shortly. So, I wish to know what it was that influenced Government in putting off this matter?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Government might have had sufficient reason to change their mind.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is what I wish to know. It is for me as well to see how far the reasons are sufficient and whether Government had no reason or any reason whatever?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I have nothing more to say on that point.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then, I too have nothing more to say.

Existence of a clique of agitators in the State.

58. **MR. A. THANU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): With reference to the statement made by Mr. L. A. Bishop in the Legislative Council on the 2nd Dhanu 1106, namely "There is a small clique in the State, composed of not more than a dozen persons, who are agitators to a certain extent. They are disgruntled: they seek power: and they seek power by means of agitation", published at page 193 of Vol. XVIII of the *Council Proceedings*, will the Government be pleased to state:

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai.]

(*a*) in what part of the State, town or *pakuthi*, this clique has its headquarters;

(*b*) the names and addresses of the persons forming this clique;

(*c*) the kind of agitation carried on by them;

(*d*) the kind of power they seek;

(*e*) how long this clique has been in existence;

(*f*) whether it is an unlawful body;

(*g*) when the activities of this clique were brought to the notice of the Government;

(*h*) whether such activities are seditious or otherwise illegal; and

(*i*) whether they or their officers have taken any action against the clique or its members?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) to (*i*) The Government do not propose to furnish the information as it is confidential.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): "Government do not propose to furnish the information as it is confidential" that is the answer. I wish to know whether information regarding the existence of this clique of agitators is also confidential?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is not confidential because it was stated in the open Council.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then, am I to understand that all those particulars that I have asked for are confidential and need not be disclosed so that even innocent persons may suffer from the influence of these agitators? The statement is this:

"There is a small clique in the State composed of not more than a dozen persons who are agitators to a certain extent. They are disgruntled: they seek power: and they seek power by means of agitation."

I want to know in what part of the State this clique has its headquarters, the names and addresses of persons forming this clique, the kind of agitation carried on by them, how long this clique has been in existence, whether it is an unlawful body, when the activities of this clique were brought to the notice of the Government, whether such activities are seditious or otherwise illegal and whether the Government or their officers have taken any action against the clique or its members. The answer given to me is that the whole thing is confidential.

I wish to know whether information as to whether this body is an unlawful one is confidential?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The whole matter connected with the question is confidential.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Whether the clique is seditious or otherwise illegal is confidential?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, it is, and I have already answered that question.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I wish to know, Sir, why all these particulars are considered confidential. Is it because the information should not be given to this House ? It was a very serious allegation made, a matter which everybody should guard himself against. I want the information because I may protect myself from the influence of these disgruntled agitators ?

PRESIDENT : Government will take the necessary measures to protect people from their activities. But, in the meantime, it is confidential.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) . This statement was made several months ago. But have Government taken any action so far or are they merely watching these disgruntled agitators carrying on their agitation ? In the face of this danger, have Government taken any action whatsoever ? Have they even moved their little finger ? That is what I have a right to know and I want to know. Simply to make a statement and then say that everything regarding it is confidential is, I submit,, Sir, unfair.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government are watching their activities and will take action when they (the agitators) transgress their limits.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I wish to know how this information came to Government, whether the statement is one for which Government accept responsiblity or whether the statement was made on the responsiblity of Mr. L. A. Bishop ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Police Commissioner made that statement and Government have accepted it.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Then am I to understand that Government take the responsibility for the statement ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : They do.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Then why not answer yes ? May I know what kind of agitation is going on ?

PRESIDENT ; It has been said that it is confidential, and I do not allow further questions on that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Why was this statement made in this House if it was so confidential ? Why did the Government tell us that here was a set of disgruntled agitators and all that ?

PRESIDENT . When it has once been said that it is confidential and no further questions will be allowed, I believed Mr. Thanu Pillai would stop.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : The information sought for is not in regard to the question but why the statement was made in the Council if it was confidential ?

PRESIDENT : As it was found necessary at the time the statement was made.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : In the course of the discussion, the statement was not at all relevant.

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PRESIDENT: Then it should have been barred if it was irrelevant at the time when it was made.

Deputy President of the Legislative Council.

59 **MR. JOSEPH KUNJU** (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Wil the Government be pleased to state whether the persons nominated as the Deputy Presidents of the Legislative Council have to take part in any religious functions in their official capacity?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): നിയമസഭയിൽ ഡെപ്യൂട്ടിപ്രസിഡൻറായി നിയമിതരാകുന്നവർ മതപരമായ യാതൊരു ചടങ്ങുകളിലും ഭാഗഭാക്കുകളാകേണ്ട എന്നുള്ള സ്ഥിതിക്കു അബ്രാഹ്മണരേയും ആ സ്ഥാനത്തു നിയമിക്കാവുന്നതാണെന്നു തീരുമാനിക്കുന്നതിൽ യാതൊരു അബദ്ധവുമില്ലെന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ മെംബർക്കു ഭയവുണ്ടാകുമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no question of Brahmin or non-Brahmin in the selection of a Deputy President.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): ഇതുവരെ അബ്രാഹ്മണരെ ആ സ്ഥാനത്തേയ്ക്കു നിയമിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതിനു വല്ല പ്രത്യേക കാരണവുമുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government selected a person suitable for the post.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): മറ്റു ജനവിഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ, അവരോടൊപ്പമോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവരെക്കാൾ കൂടുതലോ യോഗ്യന്മാരായ ആളുകൾ ഇല്ലാതിരുന്നുവെന്നാണോ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter of opinion.

Recruitment of Revenue Officers from the Bar.

60. **MR. K. P. ABRAHAM** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any rule prohibiting the recruitment of Revenue Officers from among the practising members of the Bar; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, the number of such recruitments within the past ten years?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There is no rule prohibiting the recruitment of Revenue Officers from among the practising members of the Bar, provided they possess the Departmental Examination qualifications besides the general qualification fixed by the Public Service Notification and provided they satisfy the conditions laid down in Article 43 of the *Travancore Service Regulations* regarding age-limit for entertainment in public service.

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